



2023-2024  
**Annual Report**  
(ENG)

World Mission University

# 33rd Commencement

June 1, 2024, 1:00 PM





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[2024 Commencement](#)

# A Message from the President



In 1989, when I entered World Mission University (WMU), the school's motto was "World Mission." This reflected the missionary spirit of our founder, Pastor Rev. Dong Sun Lim, whose saying, "The world is my parish," ignited a passion for mission work in people's hearts. WMU gained a reputation as a mission-oriented school, uniting students, faculty, and supporters in the effort to spread the gospel to all people. Through this, WMU has produced many dedicated pastors, missionaries, and lay leaders.

Today, there is a general decline in interest in Christianity, and the passion for missions has significantly waned. Merely proclaiming the gospel is no longer enough to move people's hearts. Now, accrediting bodies like the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) and those interested in WMU are asking two important questions: "Why should we support WMU?" and "What is WMU doing to fulfill that reason?"

As the president, my answer to the first question is "to live an incarnational life." The era of spreading the gospel with passion alone is over. We must build a spiritual infrastructure to spread the gospel effectively, forming empathy, trust, and hope towards the world. Such a consensus cannot be formed through words alone but must be embodied through our lives. Just as the Son of God came to this earth in the flesh and demonstrated through His life, we too must go out into the world and set an example through our lives. As stated in Micah 6:8b, "And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Furthermore, as Jesus clarified our identity in Matthew 5:13-16, "You are the salt of the earth... let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Thus, the reason to support WMU is to empower and encourage the WMU community to change the world through incarnational life and to join in this endeavor together. In this way, a spiritual infrastructure for spreading the Gospel will be established.

The second question also requires an answer. "What is WMU doing to fulfill that reason?" WMU aims to become the first comprehensive Christian university built by Korean Americans in America. The Lilly Foundation has provided the momentum and challenge to move toward this vision, offering creative ideas and financial support necessary for

significant changes.

Through the 'Pathways for Tomorrow' project (1st Lilly project), WMU is offering spiritual formation workshops for pastors. The 'Nurturing Children' project (2nd Lilly project) has implemented family worship and intergenerational programs. The 'Christian Parenting' project (3rd Lilly project) has provided Christian education for immigrant parents as Christian educators. The 'Compelling Preaching' project (4th Lilly project) has given pastors opportunities to enhance their preaching and offers ongoing sermon training. The 'Thriving Congregation' project (5th Lilly project) has provided leadership training for small group leaders, laying the foundation for healthy church growth.

Through these five Lilly Projects, WMU has established the Asian American Spiritual Formation Center (first project), Pacific Center for Culture and Education (second and third projects), Preaching Center (fourth project), and Small Group Ministry Center (fifth project). These centers enable us to provide spiritual training suitable for Korean Americans and meet the diverse leadership roles and educational needs of churches across the US. Moreover, the institution is nurturing preaching skills among preachers and training small group leaders, transforming churches into healthier communities.

Even after the completion of the Lilly projects, we will develop programs to ensure sustainable ministry and expand the role of the seminary, preparing for various forms of pastoral leadership. We aim to maintain the quality of our degree programs and improve accessibility while developing non-degree certificates and lifelong learning opportunities for those unable to pursue traditional theological education. At this critical juncture, WMU's mission will guide families, churches, and mission fields toward a more hopeful future.

The year 2023 marked the '100th Anniversary of Rev. Dong Sun Lim's Birth.' Rev. Lim best embodied the spirit of Jesus and Apostle Paul in our time, guiding us to become more like Jesus and Apostle Paul. In these confusing and directionless times, it was very meaningful to hold various commemorative events to reflect on Rev. Lim's life and use it as a guide for our own lives. The DSLIM Foundation was established to plan empowerment programs for families with disabilities. Through these programs, many families have formed communities to support each other. We held a memorial hall opening, published dissertations, commemorative photo albums, sermon collections, and hosted a memorial concert (oratorio), reaffirming the founding purpose and philosophy of our founder.

As I write this message in late July 2024, we face challenging and uncertain times for churches, nations, and the world. Despite this, I am confident and clear about WMU's future due to the interest, love, and active support of our sponsors. Supporters have not only helped us through these difficult years but have also funded research, raised donations, and provided a solid foundation for our future. This has positioned WMU to respond and adapt appropriately in a rapidly changing world. Our educational programs are expanding to various ethnic groups through Spanish and African English programs.

However, some things must remain unchanged. Christian schools must impart true wisdom and courage. Wisdom is the ability to discern God's will in a changing world. Courage is the strength to speak and act willingly as disciples of Christ for the kingdom of God. This requires a community of excellent students, faculty, and scholars. WMU strives to be such a community and is working to connect with various communities outside the school. The world will someday highly evaluate our values, historical awareness, and worldview. It won't be easy, but I am confident that the WMU community, together with our supporters, can achieve this. Therefore, I deeply thank you for your prayers and support in enabling the WMU community to be the salt of the earth. As President, I will do my best, along with the WMU community, to follow God's will and repay your support.



*President Sung Jin Lim*





## DSLIM FOUNDATION

Supporting WMU through Your Generosity

We help you achieve your financial and philanthropic goals and support WMU causes you care about most. We do this by raising and investing funds for the seminary and the WMU community, and empowering you to help advance God's kingdom.

### Our Services



Philanthropic  
Planning



Donor and  
Alumni Relations



Charitable Trust  
Administration



Donor-Advised  
Fund Administration



Investment  
Management

YOU HAVE GOALS. WE HELP YOU ACHIEVE THEM.

**We Are YOUR Foundation.**

213.388.1000 | [DSLIMFOUNDATION.ORG](http://DSLIMFOUNDATION.ORG)

## Looking Back



# A Vibrant Variety: Enrollment



**TOTAL ENROLLMENT**  
**440**

**31.4%**



**68.6%**



**34**

## Countries Represented

USA 64%  
South Korea 20%  
Canada 3%  
Cote D'Ivoire 2%  
Turkey 1%  
China 1%  
Zimbabwe 1%  
Malawi 1%  
India 1%  
Japan 1%



**21**

## Denominations Represented

Nondenominational 22%  
Presbyterian – General 19%  
Independent 16%  
Other 7%  
Unknown 7%  
Baptist 6%  
Assembly of God 3%  
Presbyterian – KAPC 3%  
Presbyterian – CRC 3%  
Presbyterian – PCA 3%

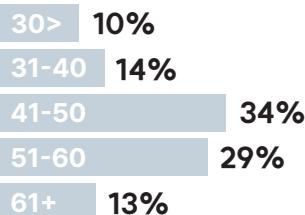


**26**

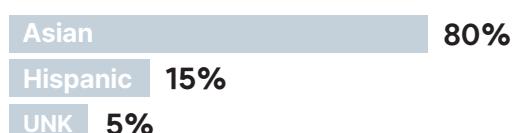
## US States Represented

California 68%  
Texas 6%  
New York 3%  
New Jersey 3%  
Massachusetts 3%  
Florida 3%  
Virginia 2%  
Arizona 1%  
Pennsylvania 1%  
Georgia 1%

## Age



## Ethnicity



ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024

# After Graduation



**TOTAL GRADUATES**  
**107**

Associate's Degrees	<b>10</b>
Bachelor's Degrees	<b>43</b>
Master's Degrees	<b>53</b>
Doctoral Degrees	<b>1</b>

**35%****Traditional Ministry**

**Church Related**  
(Pastor, music ministry, youth groups)

**Specialized Ministry**  
(campus, parachurch, other)

**Church Planting, Evangelism, Missionary Work**

**20%****Other/ Undecided****45%****Non-Traditional Ministry**

**Social Justice, Community Development/Organizing**  
(Pastor, music ministry, youth groups)

**Health Sector**  
(medicine, nursing)

**Nonprofit, Social Work, Social Services**

**Where WMU Grads Plan to Serve**

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024

## Financial Aid & Donor Impact

**789**aid recipients out  
of 906 enrolled**87%**of students  
received aid**840K**in total aid  
provided

For the spring and fall semesters, 906 students enrolled at WMU, with 789 students eligible for financial aid. Approximately 87% of students received financial aid, allowing them to continue their education. In total, \$840,000 was disbursed in scholarships.

WMU remains dedicated to financial integrity and the effective stewardship of our resources to support our mission and our students.



## Donors

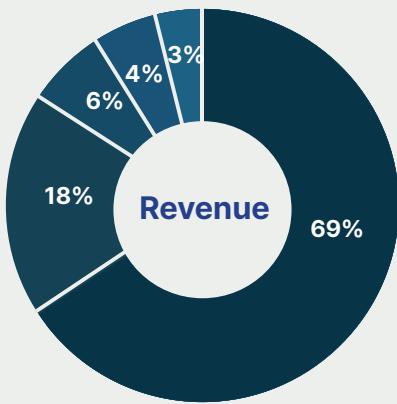
An, Youngju	Hwang, Jae Ryung	Lee, Byung In	Park, Yn Gon
Arbor-Vitae Foundation	Hwang, Joseph jongSuk	Lee, Chun Jin	Patterson, Kumcha
Bang, Seung S	I AM Church	Lee, Estela H	Patterson, Kumcha
Bang, Sooyeon	Inland Church	Lee, Hong Joo	Sarasota Korean Baptist
Beebe, HyunSuk	Jin, Senghoon	Lee, Hyuna	Church, Inc.
CDS	Jung, Sung Kil	Lee, Joan	Sehan Evangelical Church
Cha, Michelle	Kang, Darren Dong Wan	Lee, MiRan	of America
Chae, Jung Weon	Kang, Hyeyoung	Lee, Myoung Uk	Shin, Seon Mook
Chang, Hae	Kang, Tae Joon	Lee, Rachael Kyung A	ShinMoon, InSook
Choi, PyongSuk	Khoo, Rachel	Lim, Han Sol	Slater, Chong Ye
Choi, Seung Ho M.D.	Kim, Chang Ho	Lim, Hyunjung	Song, John Myung
Choi, Soo Nam	Kim, Dae Jun	Lim, JongHyuk	Song, jungeun
Choi, SooJin	Kim, Daniel Juyeon	Lim, Paul Jongho	Song, Kyunghwa
Choi, Yoon Jung	Kim, Dave Ho	Lim, S. Deborah	Song, Sung Hoon
Chung, Yongsik	Kim, Hak C	Lim, Sung Jin	Springer, Oksun
CMS Produce Inc.	Kim, Hea Jung	Los Angeles City Church	Student Body
County of Los Angeles	Kim, Ingweon	Man Nam Mission	Sun, Chang Gi
Do Dream Community	Kim, Jae Kwon	Ministerios Salem Lake Los	The Bolik Foundation
Church	Kim, Jea Hannah	Angeles	The Way Church in LA
Dr. Construction	Kim, Jeong Ae	Moon, Myung Sang	Vida Real Evangelical
East-West Center for MR	Kim, Kyoungjun	Nam, Jong Sung	Center
& D	Kim, Kyu Ho	Nam, SangGil	WEMA
Esther Kim	Kim, Kyung Hae	Nam, Yoon Hee	Won, Jongkook
EUM ART	Kim, Kyung Sae	NaNoom Christian Fellows-	Woori Hospice Care
Faithful Floors, Inc	Kim, Myeongkhyun	hip	Yeo, Sa Ra
Full Gospel Tacoma First	Kim, SeoYoung	New Lifestyle Community	Yoo, David
Church	Kim, Sharon Jungsook	Church	Yoon, ImSang
Gil, SunWook	Kim, Shin Kyung Choi	Noh, Joo Young	Yoon, Kyung Ho
Gin, Mieye	Kim, Sunhwa	Oh, SeYeong	Yoon, Sung Hwan
Global Business Sys-	Kim, Thomas T.	Oh, WiYoung	You, Moon Su
tems, Inc.	Ko, Lily	Open Stewardship	Yu, Kang Soo
Glorious Silver Mission	Koo, Charis	Orange County Mission	Yune, Esther
Good Shepherd Church of	Koo, Sun Young	Church	YW KANG Foundation
San Diego	Kwon, Namhee	Other	Zoom Mission
Han, MiJung	KYCC, INC.	Park, Ok Grace	
Hanbit Church	Kyung Un Church	Park, Seunghyun	
His Dream Alliance, Inc.	Kyung Yop Min	Park, Sorin	
Huh, Eunice	LA Vision Church	Park, Sunmi	

# Financial Stewardship

World Mission University (WMU) strives to be a financially sound, transparent, and accountable nonprofit organization. Financial results are evaluated and measured by funders, accreditors, WMU's leadership and staff, and the Board of Trustees. Sharing financial records is a vital component of our commitment to accountability.

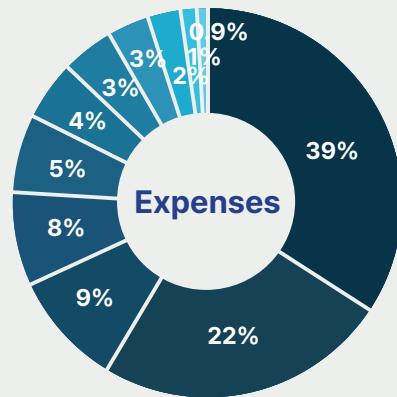
WMU has operated in a surplus for the past 10 fiscal years. For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, revenues were approximately \$4.3 million, while operating expenses were approximately \$3.7 million, resulting in a surplus of around \$600,000. Additionally, we awarded approximately \$840,000 in scholarships to students. We received approximately \$4.85 million in grants from various government and private organizations, including:

In total, we received \$4,836,244.00 in grant income.



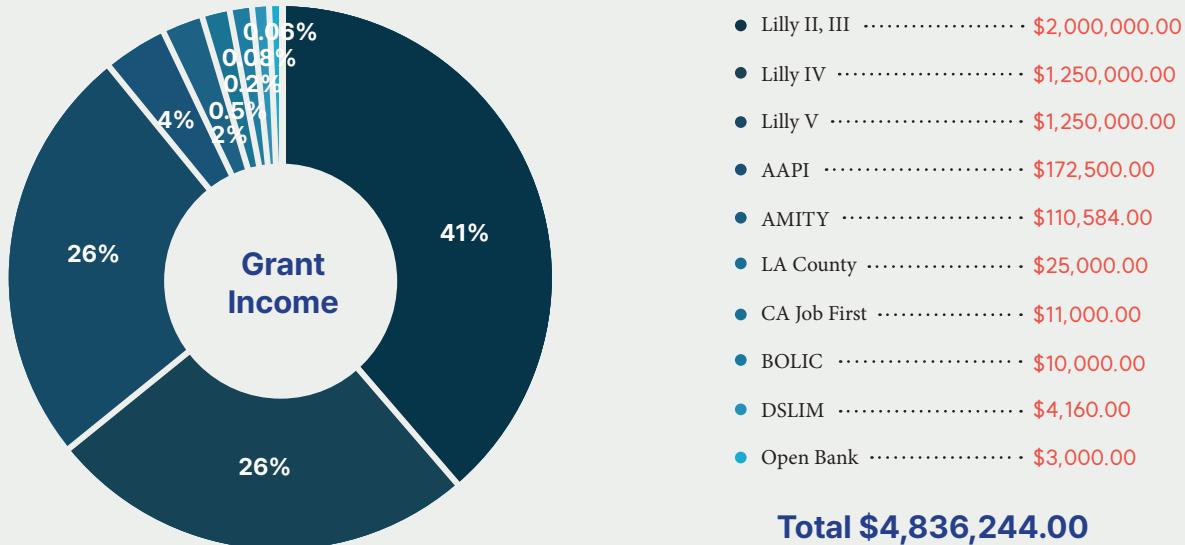
- Tuition & Fees ..... \$2,947,556.65
- Rental ..... \$762,796.89
- Donation ..... \$254,065.78
- Investment ..... \$176,035.55
- Others ..... \$153,654.12

**Total \$4,240,948.99**



- Salaries & Wages ..... \$1,460,470.35
- Scholarships ..... \$839,907.02
- Maintenance & Repair ..... \$324,537.56
- Office Supplies ..... \$299,193.42
- Tax & Insurances ..... \$197,873.64
- Loan Payment ..... \$152,707.32
- Others ..... \$139,224.20
- Academic Expanses ..... \$104,211.11
- Services ..... \$92,575.88
- Donations ..... \$52,162.58
- Library ..... \$31,572.15

**Total \$3,694,435.23**



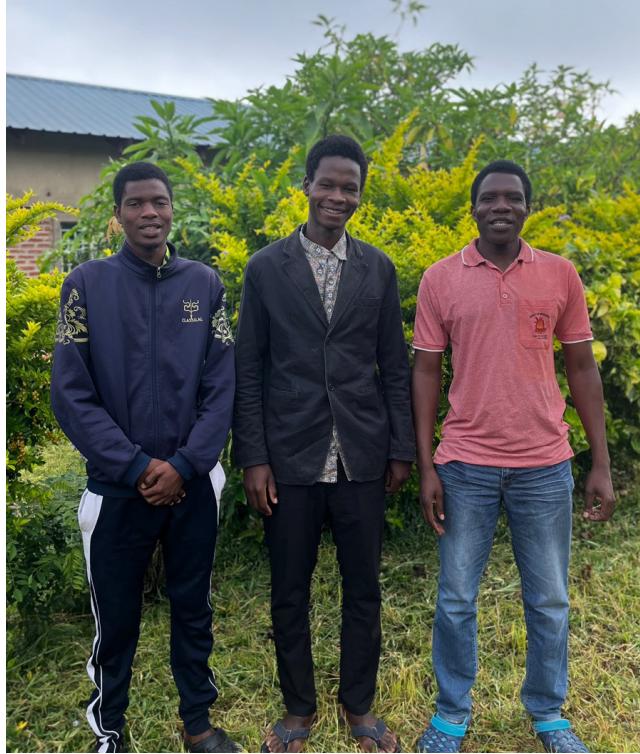
This fiscal year, we awarded approximately \$840,000 in scholarships to students and received about \$4.85 million in grants from eight government and private institutions. Below are the names of the institutions that provided the grants:

Lilly Endowment, AAPI, AMITY, LA County, CA Job First, BOLICK, DSLIM, Open Bank

### Scholarship Campaign for African Students

In 2022, WMU launched a successful fundraising campaign for seminarians in Africa, raising more than our goal and enabling the program to commence. The success of the African English program underscores our belief in WMU's mission to equip Christians for God's work globally. This achievement brings us closer to fulfilling WMU's larger strategic vision and extends our theological education to a broader audience.





## Students Testimony



### From Côte d'Ivoire | English Track

#### **Yao Konnan Alain Roland**

I've been a pastor for nearly four years and was converted and baptized in 2003. I lead an assembly called the "Meeting of the Winners" in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, in the commune of Cocody. My vision for God's work in my life and in the church is to do everything possible to win souls for the kingdom of heaven. This involves evangelizing, making disciples of Christ, and building a strong church according to the model of Christ, the "bride."

### From Malawi | English Track

#### **Naphtar Peter Matchakaza**

Joining the university in 2022 has been a transformative experience for me. Through courses like English Ministry, Chapel Report, and New Testament Survey, I have grown significantly in my faith and understanding of discipleship. These studies have not only deepened my knowledge of the Gospel and its spread through history but have also equipped me with the skills to effectively serve in my church and share the message of Jesus Christ with the world.



### From United States | Spanish Track

#### **William Arbelaez**

For over two decades, my family and I have lived in the U.S., where I've served as a Pastor at Northgate Community Church in Cathedral City and taught at WMU. As a Spanish-speaking Pastor, I've pursued a BA in Biblical Counseling at WMU, which has opened many opportunities to serve the Lord. WMU's mission to provide accessible education for Latinos aligns with my vision, and I'm proud to support it. My passion lies in serving God, making disciples, and supporting the establishment of churches along the US-Mexico border. I am committed to advancing His Kingdom as long as the Lord permits.



#### From India | English Track

### Romy Robinson

After the Lord healed my father in 2011, I left my job in the merchant navy and began ministry work, spreading the gospel and planting churches in North India.

My vision is to share the gospel, save souls, and build God's Kingdom in North India and beyond. Through WMU, I'm deepening my understanding of God's love and aim to grow the Indian church into a self-sustaining, biblical community. I also hope to establish a mission training center to reach unevangelized areas and build a faith community church that serves and nurtures disciples.



#### From India | DMin

### Seung Soo Lee

For 17 years, I've served in India with my wife and three children, leading the King's Gardens team and the educational ministry "Soeim," focusing on spreading the gospel and equipping leaders. WMU has been instrumental in reshaping my knowledge through its rich resources and small group activities, even in the challenging mission field. The online platform allowed me to study without time and location constraints, providing a solid foundation for the leadership education ministry I run. It also helped me learn and apply practical leadership skills needed to lead a mission organization in India.



#### From Botswana | English Track

### Boago Wetshootsile

The program has significantly deepened my understanding of theology and scripture, enhancing my skills in communication, leadership, and critical thinking. This education is equipping me for effective ministry and service.

I'm excited about using this knowledge to contribute meaningfully in pastoral ministry, community outreach, and education. Your support has been crucial, and I am committed to honoring your investment through dedicated study and service. Thank you for believing in the transformative power of education.

# JOIN GENEROUS SUPPORTERS WHO HAVE MADE A LEGACY GIFT TO WMU

WMU and DSLIM Foundation honors and recognizes those generous individuals who make future gifts to WMU through their will or estate plans. Membership in the DSLIM Foundation to provide ongoing appreciation and recognition for individuals and families who support WMU through legacy gifts.

*If you're interested in including WMU in your will or estate plan, email [sunglim@wmu.edu](mailto:sunglim@wmu.edu) or visit [dslimfoundation.org](http://dslimfoundation.org)*

## Ways to Give



### Online

Go to:  
[wmu.edu/wmu.give.now](http://wmu.edu/wmu.give.now)



### Mail

Send check donations to:  
 World Mission University  
 500 Shatto Place Suite #400  
 Los Angeles, CA 90020



### Phone

Call:  
 213.388.1000  
 Ext: 108

## More Ways to Give

If you would like more information on the following ways to give, please email [sunglim@wmu.edu](mailto:sunglim@wmu.edu) or call 213.388.1000.



### Stock



### Legacy Gifts



### Matching Gifts



### Wire Transfer



### Donor-Advised Funds

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## Moving Ahead





## Campus Program + Online Program One Community

World Mission University (WMU) was founded on Protestant evangelical principles to nurture missionaries, pastors, and Christian ministers with balanced spirituality and knowledge, suited for the new era. WMU offers majors in theology, counseling, coaching, music, nursing, social welfare, praise and worship, and global leadership through both campus and online programs. These programs serve the Korean diaspora around the world, including the local region. Graduates of WMU serve as pastors, missionaries, worship leaders, Christian coun-

selors, nurses, social workers, and church leaders.

WMU aims to nurture various Christian ministers who can be active in all areas of life, beyond the traditional role of pastors, adapting to the changing era. Central to all curriculums is competency-based theological education, which focuses on enabling students to acquire sound Christian spirituality, professionalism, and practical ministry capabilities needed in the field, rather than just theoretical knowledge.

## Hybrid Smart Classroom

The hybrid smart classroom is an advanced classroom that enables two-way communication both online and offline, overcoming the spatial limitations of online lectures.



Moodle



Video Conference



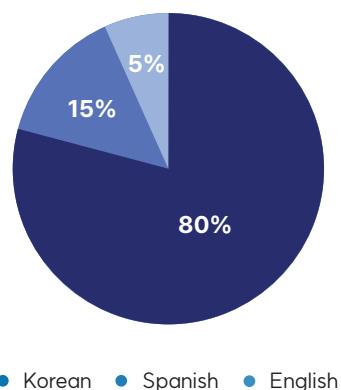
Blended Learning



## Our Online Program Offers Three Language Tracks

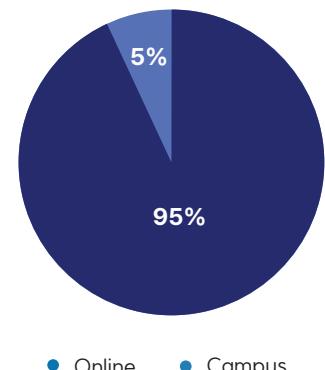
ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024

### Enrollment by Language Track



● Korean   ● Spanish   ● English

### Enrollment by Modality



● Online   ● Campus

### Korean Track

Designed for the Korean diaspora worldwide, allowing them to study in their native language.

#### Theology/Ministry

For Koreans of all ages aspiring to ministry, learning to serve and share the gospel.

#### Counseling & Coaching

Helps heal broken hearts and brighten dark souls, enabling people to live confidently as Christians in the world.

#### Nursing

Provides not only medical care but also acts as a caregiver for souls.

#### Social Work

Visits marginalized individuals in society, caring for them with a social work approach and helping them emerge into the light of the world.

#### Music/Worship

Warms the world with music, raising music leaders to serve society.

### Spanish Track

Allows Latinos in the U.S. to learn in their own language and become healthy citizens who contribute positively to their communities.

### English Track

Designed for indigenous Christian leaders from five countries in eastern, western, and southern Africa, helping them envision and shape the future of their countries.



Director  
Im Sang Yoon

## Student Affairs

During the academic year 2023–2024, the Student Affairs Office at World Mission University (WMU) focused on key responsibilities including spring and fall orientations, organizing school events, and overseeing chapel services.

### Spring and Fall Orientation

Zoom functionality significantly improved



during both orientations, contributing to smoother processes. Efforts were made to enhance freshman participation, although further engagement is encouraged for future orientations.

### Online Spiritual Retreat

The online spiritual retreat, themed “Connecting to Spiritual Community,” marked the school’s largest Zoom Meeting event with 185 participants. While technical challenges persisted, the event showcased progress in fostering spiritual connectivity, underscoring its growing significance within the school’s spiritual pursuits.

### “A Small Sanctuary During a Busy Life” (Radio WMU 1000)

This program aimed to foster unity and community among students and WMU as a spiritual family. Despite the positive intent, participation was limited, primarily due to the predominantly online student body. This underscored the importance of considering the realities and needs of remote learners in future planning.

### World Mission Festival

Evaluation of the World Mission Festival in November highlighted the need for substantial revision to better align with current para-



digms. Feedback emphasized the necessity for updated timing and content to enhance future success.

## Graduation Banquet

Following its successful reintroduction post-COVID-19 pandemic, the Graduation Banquet became a pivotal event for graduates to celebrate their achievements and embrace the school's founding spirit. The inclusion of prayer sessions enriched the event, instilling a deep sense of mission among graduates and reinforcing its role as a catalyst for increased participation in the graduation ceremony.

## Online Chapel Services

Efforts continued to enhance the online chapel experience, ensuring meaningful worship opportunities for all participants. Weekly services aimed for diversity and inclusivity

across all departments, with careful selection of speakers to provide varied perspectives on the Word.

## Future Directions

Ongoing research and adaptation efforts are crucial to align with evolving educational paradigms. The Student Affairs Office remains committed to exploring innovative content for online events and establishing robust liaison networks across departments to enhance organizational efficiency.

As we navigate the dynamic landscape of education, our commitment to enhancing student engagement and spiritual growth remains steadfast. We look forward to implementing these insights to further enrich the WMU community in the coming years.



Director  
EunJoo Jung

## Department of Coaching

The World Mission University Coaching Program equips individuals for ministry through Christian coaching in communities, churches, families, and mission fields. It integrates theology with coaching, spirituality, psychology, and leadership to develop skilled Christian coaches. The program aims to help people and organizations live according

to God's will, while advancing research in Christian coaching. As interest in coaching grows, Christian coaching serves as a valuable tool to view and guide coachees from God's perspective, helping them achieve their goals and expand God's kingdom.

### AA/BA in Christian Counseling and Coaching

This program welcomes learners of all ages who are passionate about helping others. Students focus on knowing God theologically and understanding themselves first. With the skills gained, they serve in their fields and support each other through online and offline gatherings and retreats.

### MA in Global Leadership Coaching Concentration

This program attracts many students annually. Its curriculum integrates theology, coaching, psychology, and leadership with practical training, preparing students as Christian coaches. The school supports ICF certification, and students build networks through coaching practice, meetings, and retreats.

### Doctoral Program in Coaching

The coaching-focused doctoral program,





offering a DMin and PhD in Practical Theology, has seen increased interest from pastors and missionaries. Many are seeking a new paradigm for ministry, while faith-based coaches are joining to deepen their understanding of Christian coaching through theological study.

### StoryOn Coaching Center

The WMU-affiliated StoryOn Coaching Center serves as an internship center for students, offering coaching services to World Mission University students and Christian coaching to Koreans worldwide. Through the Storyon Coaching Center's New York branch, a coaching platform is provided for graduates, helping introduce and offer Christian coaching to Christians, pastors, missionaries, and ministry workers globally.

### Prospects and Development

Christian coaching strengthens individuals by guiding them toward a new paradigm and positive energy with the Holy Spirit. It will be essential for today's world, as it helps expand God's kingdom. Learning Christian coaching from a biblical perspective shows how to use it effectively. The GSC Global Coaching Association will build the academic foundation, while the Storyon Coaching Center's New York branch will create a coaching platform and Christian coach network, supporting both students and graduates.



Director  
Jongsung Nam

## Department of Christian Ministry

The Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministry program is designed with two primary objectives. Firstly, it prepares students for advanced studies at the graduate level. Secondly, it equips students to support professional ministers through various responsibilities within churches and Christian organizations. Upon completion of the program, students will acquire the following skills and capabilities:

1. Proficiency in Biblical knowledge, adept interpretation skills, and the ability to effectively communicate the Gospel.
2. Demonstrated personal spiritual maturity essential for Christian leadership roles.
3. Understanding of fundamental ministry theories and practical skills crucial for effective ministry work.

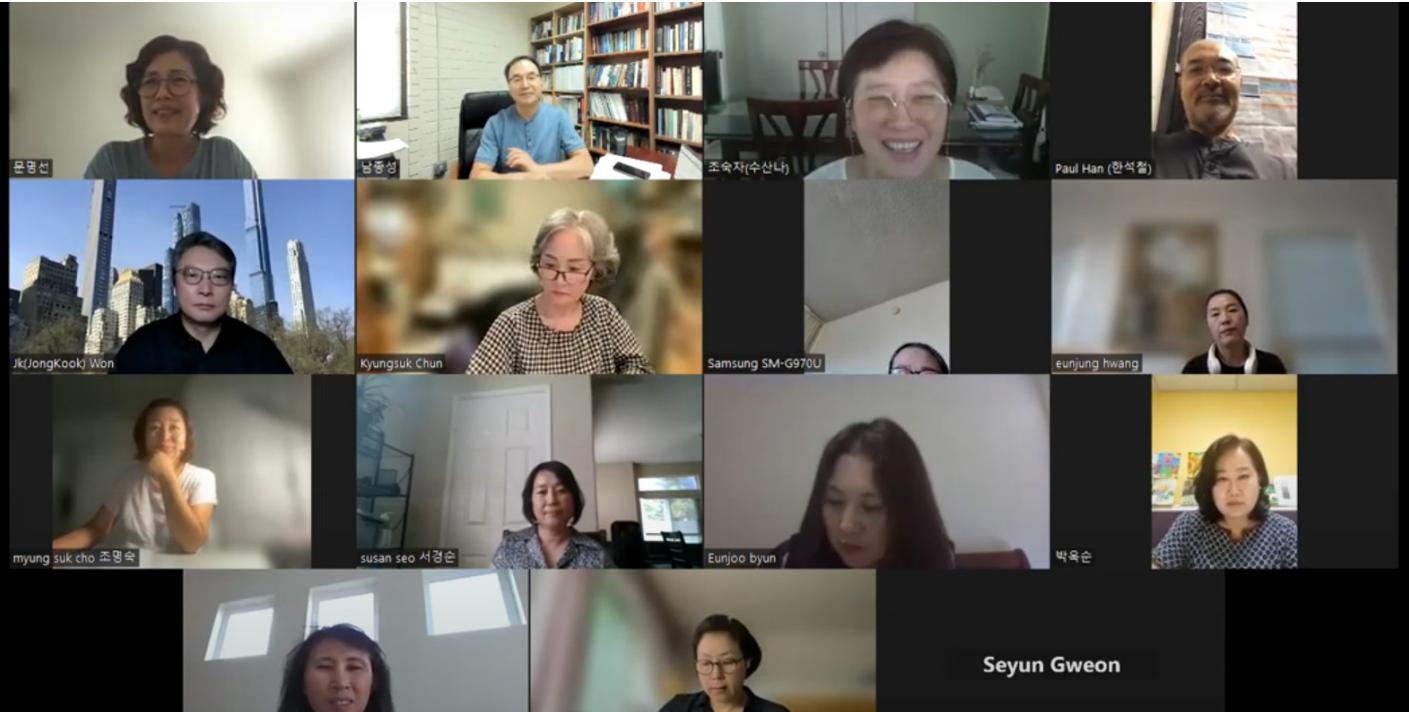
### Target Audience

The program primarily targets Korean-speaking individuals globally, with a specific focus on prospective students eligible for government financial aid in the United States. Internationally, it appeals to missionaries, diaspora leaders, and dedicated believers seeking to deepen their spiritual lives.

### Current Enrollment and Graduates

As of the Spring semester 2024, the BACM program boasts an enrollment of 18 students, excluding participants in specialized tracks such as BACM-PW (Praise and Worship), Spanish, and English programs. Over the period from Fall 2023 to Spring 2024, four students successfully graduated from the BACM program. Among these graduates, two have chosen to pursue further education, while the remaining two are actively engaged in ministry roles.





## Program Focus

True to its name, the BACM program places a strong emphasis on practical ministry. The curriculum includes essential subjects aimed at equipping students for effective and impactful ministry work.

## Enhancing Student Experience

The program strives to instill a sense of mission in students as future Christian ministers. Efforts are focused on meeting student needs through high-quality instruction, dedicated faculty support, and exemplary administrative services. Enhancing community spirit, the program plans to bolster student self-governance activities and provide personalized support through academic counseling, life coaching, ministry mentoring, and spiritual guidance. Maintaining robust connections with field leaders ensures graduates are well-prepared for practical ministry

roles and employment opportunities.

## Future Directions

The BACM program plays a pivotal role in World Mission University's evolution into a comprehensive Christian institution. We remain steadfast in our commitment to nurturing capable Christian leaders who can effectively guide communities through periods of change and uncertainty.



Director  
Hyuna Lee

## Department of Social Work

The Bachelor of Arts in Social Work program aims to cultivate social workers who practice love and justice for humanity based on Christian principles. We provide ample opportunities to experience both theoretical knowledge in social work studies and hands-on experience in clinical settings.

Upon completion of the degree, students will acquire the following skills and capabilities:

1. Discover a clear calling as Christian Social Workers.
2. Develop the ability to comprehend the needs of individuals in diverse cultural contexts and to create appropriate social work practices and policies.
3. Grow into social welfare leaders who can effectively adapt to and influence the social environment.

The 2023-2024 academic year has been a fruitful period for the School of Social Work, as we collaborated with various social welfare institutions to address and solve community issues. Through mutual cooperation with diverse social agencies, we supported field practicum and developed and disseminated joint programs.

Director of the BASW Program, Hyuna Lee, has contributed as a co-researcher in collaboration with Kangnam University in South Korea on the research projects "A study on smart welfare political tasks for the socially disadvantaged people." and "Research on the development of a multisensory music experience system and educational solution for the hearing impaired." She has also published a paper titled "A Social Welfare Consideration on Senior Welfare Mission: Challenges of the Covid-19 Endemic and Super-Aging Society Transition" in Theology and Praxis Journal.





## Community Outreach

The BASW program partnered with the Koreatown Youth+ Community Center to conduct mental health outreach, providing mental health lectures at local senior centers and producing and distributing mental health videos. In February 2024, Professor Hyuna Lee led an 8-week empowerment workshop for parents and families raising children with disabilities. In March and May, we collaborated with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health to conduct various activities to raise mental health awareness, including suicide prevention workshops and discussions on developmental disabilities and mental health.

## Social Work Media

The Department of Social Work has actively utilized YouTube to produce an 8-minute series on mental health, alumni interviews, and

interviews with community organizations. Through media, we have provided valuable social welfare knowledge and information, creating excellent opportunities to promote the social work program.

## Future Directions

Through missions that meet the needs of the community, the social work program proudly supports and assists individuals facing various difficulties within the Korean-American Community demonstrating a good model of collaboration with local organizations. These efforts enrich the 35-year journey of World Mission University. The Department of Social Work will continue striving to cultivate social workers equipped with intellect, spirituality, and professionalism through the development of high-quality curriculum and mission experiences.



Director  
Kyung Hwa Song

## Department of Counseling Psychology

The Graduate Department of Counseling Psychology at World Mission University is dedicated to enhancing the mental health of individuals in distress through professional counseling rooted in Christian theology and spirituality. Our programs ranging from master's to doctoral levels, including integrated tracks train Christian counselors equipped with both faith and expertise. Our affiliated Korean American Counseling Cen-

ter provides vital counseling services to those in need.

In the 2023–2024 academic year, amid the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 worldwide, mental health challenges have intensified, driving a surge in interest in counseling studies and an increased demand for services at our counseling center. This underscores the critical role of Christian counseling in addressing contemporary mental health needs. Embracing Isaiah 40:1 as our mission, World Mission University's Graduate School of Counseling Psychology continues to respond to this urgent call, striving to expand and serve.

### Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology

The MACP program has seen a notable increase in enrollment, with over 40 new students joining in the 2023–2024 academic year. This growth reflects a growing enthusiasm for learning Christian counseling at WMU. Renowned for its robust curriculum and structured practicum classes, the program attracts Korean students worldwide seeking specialized training in Christian counseling. MACP students benefit from comprehensive coursework and support, earning certifications such as the Christian Counselor certification from the Korean Evangelical Counseling Society, enhancing their professional credentials.





## Doctoral Degree Programs in Counseling Psychology

Introduced in 2022 (DMinCCSF) and 2023 (PhD), our doctoral programs have evolved significantly during the 2023–2024 academic year. Through continuous dialogue with students and faculty, the programs have been refined to offer optimal curricula. Originally combining counseling and coaching, the programs now feature distinct concentrations for deeper specialization and expansion. This year marked the graduation of our first doctoral student, with a 21% increase in new enrollments compared to the previous year. The integrated master's-doctoral track is also growing, driven by increasing applications from missionary and pastoral couples, highlighting the program's relevance to ministry contexts.

## Korean American Counseling Center

Affiliated with the Graduate School of Counseling Psychology, the Korean American Counseling Center serves as both an internship site for students and a provider of high-quality Christian counseling to the global Korean diaspora, free of charge. In the 2023–2024 academic year, the center offered Christian counseling to over 200 individuals and conducted regular mental health seminars to educate the community on improving mental well-being. As demand for counseling services continues to rise and our cohort of intern counselors expands, we anticipate the center's impact to grow significantly.



Director  
Yoon Jung Choi

# Department of Theology

## Master of Divinity

Since Fall 2019, the online track saw a surge in enrollment initially due to 15 new students from the J Church Cohort. However, recruitment for on-campus students ceased in Fall 2020, leading to a decline in overall new enrollments. The trend for online students has shown a gradual decrease. The MDiv pro-

gram requires a minimum of 8 students in spring and 12 in fall to sustain viability. As of Spring 2024, 9 students have been admitted, with 3 deferrals and 6 enrollments.

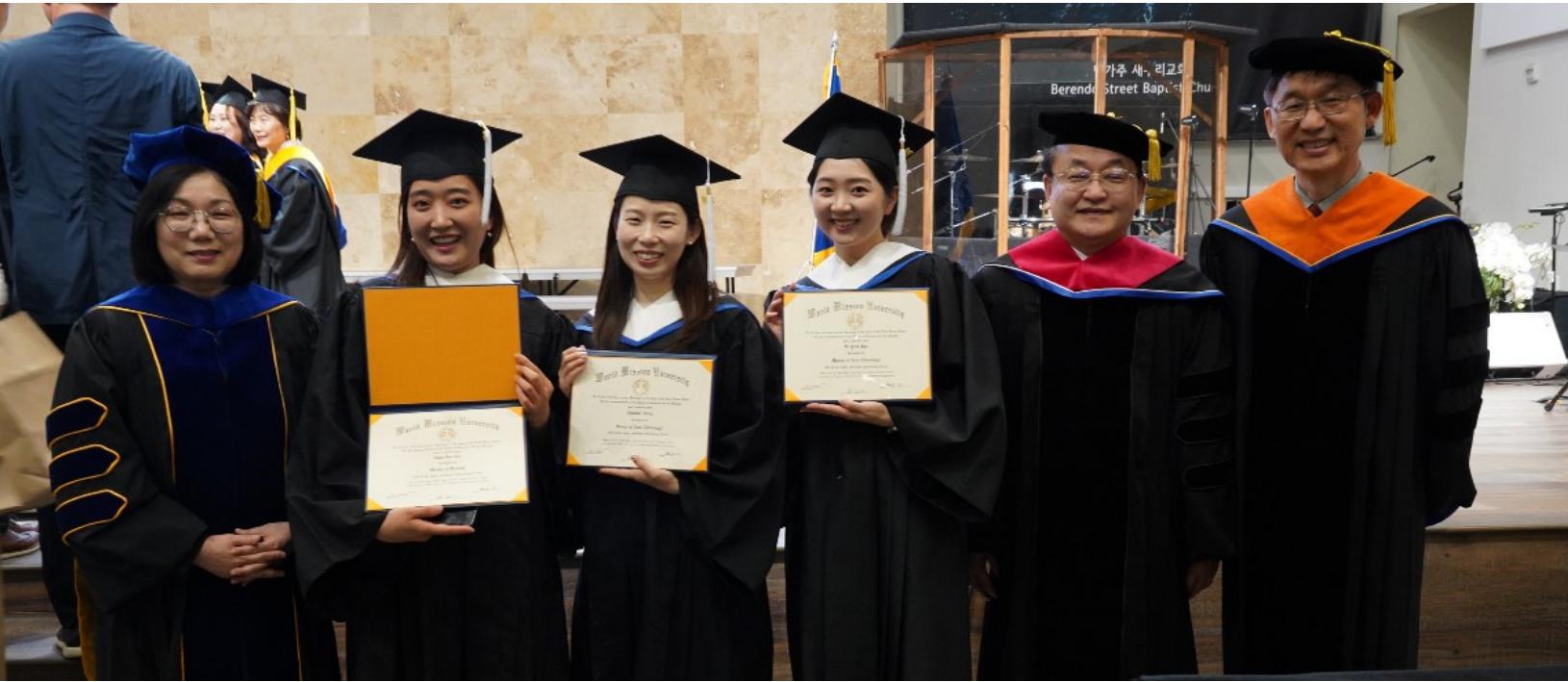
## Master of Arts in Theology

Enrollment has remained stable despite the absence of on-campus students since Fall 2020, thanks to consistent admissions from GDEW missions. The MAT program aims to recruit 4 students in spring and 6 in fall to maintain current levels. In Spring 2024, 10 new students from GDEW missions were admitted, with 2 deferrals and 8 enrollments.

## Strengths and Activities

The Department of Theology has enriched its curriculum by focusing on ministry competencies and spirituality. Graduation requirements have been adjusted to 79 credits, with an added emphasis on Spiritual Formation and Discipline through courses like PT542 and PT545. In Spring 2024, a seminar on "Gospel and Social Mission" featured Pastor Kang-il Lee of the Korea Evangelical Movement Institute, highlighting new perspectives on reconciliation and practical solidarity in today's diverse and competitive world.





## Prospects and Development

Moving forward, we aim to attract students by enhancing pastoral capabilities with unique educational strategies. The Capstone Course, Pastoral Practice, will intensify pastoral mentoring sessions online in real-time. Despite challenges such as declining church attendance and a shrinking Christian population, theological programs like MDiv and MAT remain essential.

The upcoming Pastoral Coaching Seminar on July 19 and 26, 2024, led by Pastor Jae Byung Yoon, will explore pastoral communication and coaching leadership, further enhancing ministry capabilities. Our future goals include expanding practical theology programs in the global online era, establishing ourselves as an appealing choice for current and prospective students.



Director  
Im Sang Yoon

## Department of Music

Our alumni are recognized as church music ministers and community leaders in Southern California, North America, Korea, Southeast Asia, South America, and Africa. They serve as music professors, conductors, church music directors, worship leaders, arrangers, and teachers, actively contributing to their communities. Current students are also making a global impact in

music ministry while studying, including vocalists and musical actors in Southern California, music teachers in Rwanda, music missionaries in Benin, and artistic directors in Korea.

The 2023–2024 academic year has been fruitful, with new programs and teaching methods adopted to keep pace with evolving times. Ongoing performances continue to highlight the excellence of our department.

### Enhanced Degree Programs

In response to the pandemic, our Music Classes transitioned online, offering synchronous discussions and practical instruction globally. Since 2022, the WMU Smart Classroom has provided advanced online music lessons and live performance capabilities. Upgrades like Zoom-compatible microphones and essential systems introduced in fall 2023 have boosted engagement and participation, regardless of location.



Our new Integrated Master's and Doctoral Program offers focused pathways for advanced degrees, preparing future music ministry leaders. Starting with our inaugural cohort from Indonesia in fall 2024, this program promotes student-centered learning and academic success through structured course sequences.



## Faculty Highlights

This year, our esteemed faculty advanced musical education and practice globally. Department Chair Sang Yoon Im judged an international conducting competition in Argentina, conducted seminars for music leaders in Korea, and collaborated on a landmark performance at Disney Concert Hall, promoting cultural harmony. Collaborations with renowned artists like Sumi Jo highlight our commitment to artistic excellence and international collaboration.

Director of the DMA Program, Esther Yune, expanded educational outreach at CSArts-San Gabriel Valley, using cutting-edge teaching methods. Her adjudication at the Santa Clarita Music Teachers Association Festival and performances at prestigious venues like Pasadena Presbyterian Church showcase our faculty's dedication to enriching musical education and community engagement.

## Student Music Festival and Community Impact

In Fall 2023, students tackled significant challenges while preparing for the Founder's Centennial Anniversary Concert with LAK-MA, celebrating our school's spirit through unique musical creation. Biannual student concerts foster community interaction and showcase diverse talents, enriching Southern California's cultural landscape. These festivals hone rehearsal techniques, enhance performance skills, and nurture empathetic leaders who engage audiences and promote cultural dialogue.

World Mission University's Music Department is dedicated to empowering students, cultivating artistic excellence, and inspiring global musical leadership. Through innovative programs, dedicated faculty, and transformative experiences, we shape the future of music education and community enrichment worldwide.

# Department of Nursing

## **"A Professional Healthcare Leader of Inspiring Innovation, Embracing Change"**

The World Mission University Nursing Department, established in 2019, operates with the mission "To foster professional nursing leaders who inspire creativity and accept change." Our program, known for its excellent educational standards and our students' exceptional skills, has consistently



Director  
Youngjoo Lee

produced a professional nursing workforce imbued with a Christian spirit.

In June, the department successfully passed the in-person visit from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), a National Accreditation Agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. This accreditation guarantees the quality and integration of our Nursing Bachelor's program and acknowledges our continuous growth. Achieving CCNE accreditation is a significant milestone, enabling us to continue admitting English-speaking students and providing high-quality nursing education to Korean students. Notably, this is the first accreditation granted to a nursing school run by Koreans, for Koreans, in our local community.

In March, the WMU Nursing Department hosted a seminar titled "Is Dementia Preventable?", available both online and in-person, to educate local community members. We reached a total of 45 attendees from New York, Virginia, Texas, and Korea, and the training was recorded and shared on YouTube for public access. In June, we collaborated with Cedars-Sinai Cancer Center's breast cancer expert Professor Jinsun Lee to host another seminar on "Breast Cancer's Latest Treatments and Challenges."



In 2023, we published the second volume of the Journal of KORAM, summarizing research findings from graduates and staff. In December, Department Head Professor Youngjoo Lee attended and presented at the GKNA Conference in Chicago on the theme "Depression in the Korean Community," and in October, participated in the OKNA Conference in Seoul, Korea.

In June 2024, the program celebrated the graduation of its 4th cohort of 7 students, bringing the total number of graduates to 42. Our graduates play a central role in producing nursing professionals within the local Korean community. Additionally, we made curriculum changes to our online program to decrease tuition in response to prospective student feedback, aimed at increasing enrollment.

Lastly, the department has welcomed new and returning professors in preparation for the launch of a master's program and an integrated Master's program set to open in 2025.



Director  
JinSoo Ga

## Department of Praise and Worship

### **“Come, Now is Time to Worship”**

As the renowned worship leader Brian Doerksen's song aptly states, "Now is the time to worship." In an era marked by spiritual hunger and thirst, the act of worship holds unparalleled significance as we encounter God.

For over 35 years, World Mission University (WMU) has been dedicated to equipping pastors, missionaries, and Christian leaders with a mission spanning generations. As an evangelical institution, we bear witness to God's living presence, proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, and nurture Christian leadership. Looking ahead to the next decade, we are steadfast in preparing the church and the next generation to experience a renewal of spiritual empowerment rooted in the essence and foundation of worship.

In alignment with this vision, under God's providence, in fall 2023, we launched the ATS-accredited Doctor of Worship Studies (DWS) program to equip Korean church pastors, worship ministers, and mission leaders. WMU is one of the few institutions globally offering comprehensive 'praise and worship' programs at the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels, leading modern worship studies.

The Korean church faces spiritual uncertainty, especially for the next generation. We believe the solution lies in returning to the church's core essence: worship. Prioritizing worship, rooted in biblical principles, is essential for pleasing God and restoring the church. WMU is committed to partnering with worshipers for the spiritual renewal of church worship and communities. This





restoration begins with worshiping God. WMU's 'Praise and Worship' courses are a crucial mission for our times.

In 2023, WMU's Praise and Worship program hosted the "Next Flow Worship Conference," attracting over 1,000 participants who engaged in worship. We also held several worship seminars on biblical worship and praise.

Starting in 2025, we will introduce non-degree courses, including a "School of Worship" for laypeople and a "Future Worship Summit" for church leaders. These programs will provide extensive biblical and theological training in worship, addressing the needs of local churches and their members.

The demand for worship leaders is high worldwide, especially in rural and remote areas, but formal training is often limited.

WMU's online education system is ready to address these challenges, providing training wherever needed. We see the Praise and Worship program as a divine calling and are committed to training spiritual leaders to lead worship in alignment with God's heart and desires.

## REPORT

# Accreditation

World Mission University is pleased to announce significant progress in our accreditation journey and program expansions. In April 2023, World Mission University submitted qualifying documents to join WSCUC, culminating in an online review by the WSCUC Eligibility Review Committee in November 2023. We are now focused on finalizing our Self Study, which is scheduled for submission by the end of July, marking a pivotal step towards obtaining WSCUC accreditation.

Following the submission of our Self Study, World Mission University will host a visit from the WSCUC audit team. This visit will determine our accreditation status, with potential outcomes including initial accreditation or candidacy with identified corrections. Our institution is committed to meeting and exceeding accreditation standards to ensure academic excellence and student success.

Furthermore, our Department of Nursing currently operates an RN to BSN program accredited by CCNE, with plans in motion to expand into an MSN program under CCNE approval. Our PhD program, formally approved by ATS, continues to advance faculty research and expand our online program offerings.

World Mission University remains dedicated to transparency and excellence in higher education, and we look forward to sharing further updates with our valued stakeholders and community as we progress in our accreditation efforts.



ATS visited,  
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tors

REPORT

# Data Management

World Mission University(WMU) is actively pursuing accreditation from WSCUC, aiming to enhance its status as a leading Christian university. Central to this effort is the meticulous management of student data, critical for demonstrating compliance and academic standards. Historically, WMU faced challenges with data accuracy and consistency due to turnover and inconsistent practices in data entry using GradPro software.

To address these issues swiftly, WMU appointed Professor Kyoungjun Kim from the planning office to oversee a comprehensive review and organization of student databases spanning the past decade. Between December 2023 and June 2024, WMU conducted multiple internal sessions to standardize data entry protocols that were previously disparate. Dr. Kim meticulously audited 6,856 student records, rectifying errors, eliminating redundant data, and ensuring data integrity crucial for WSCUC accreditation requirements.

Moving forward, WMU remains committed to upholding these refined data management practices, essential for maintaining accreditation standards and solidifying its reputation as a distinguished institution dedicated to academic excellence and institutional integrity.



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Director Kyoungjun Kim is working on the GradPro

## REPORT

# DSLIM Foundation

In 2023, following the vision and mission of WMU founder Rev. Dong Sun Lim, the DSLIM Foundation was established, named in his honor. This non-profit organization is dedicated to providing intellectual, physical, psychological, social, and cultural resources to people of all ages, leaders of organizations, and communities. The foundation focuses on enhancing the capacities of individuals and organizations and elevating the value of local communities through various cultural, welfare, education, and service projects.

Specifically, in 2023-2024, the DSLIM Foundation planned and developed a family empowerment program for families of children with disabilities. By bringing together experts in communication, special education, and social welfare related to disabilities, we created an 8-week educational program, which is now offered both online and offline. This program serves as an excellent model for helping parents and guardians of children with disabilities, as well as disability workers and community volunteers, gain a deeper understanding of disabilities.

The DSLIM Foundation is actively engaged in various areas of service. Through the WMU Academy, it offers programs for seniors and provides certification and credentialing courses in counseling and coaching. At the Lilly Center, the Lilly Grant Activity has been expanded to include spiritual training, educational and cultural ministries for families, preaching workshops for pastors, and leadership training for lay leaders. The Family Center supports families with disabilities through the SAFE program, while the Counseling and Coaching Centers offer specialized services in their respective fields. Additionally, the foundation plans to establish a adult daycare health center soon to enhance convenience for seniors. To secure grants, the foundation has hired a dedicated staff member to actively pursue financial support. The DSLIM Foundation is committed to expanding the WMU's ministry while also contributing to its financial sustainability.



People looking around the DS-LIM Memorial

REPORT

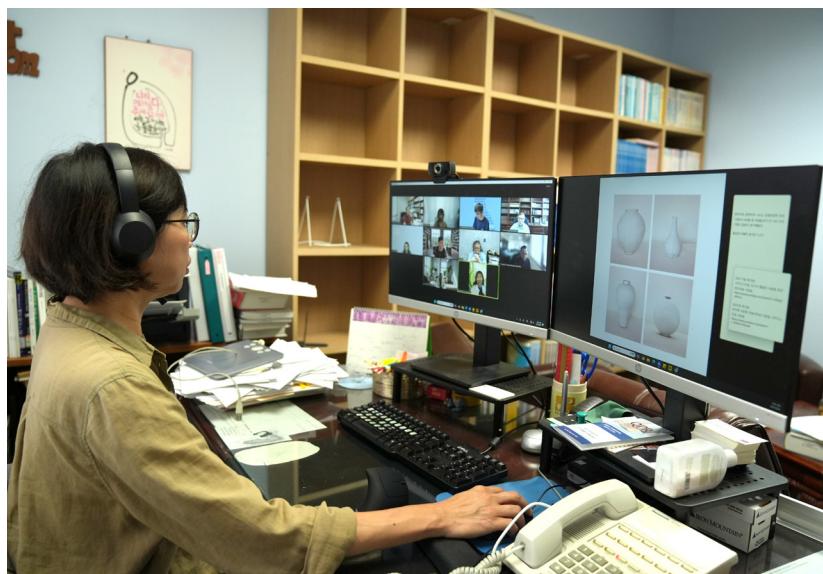
# Institutional Research

As WMU commenced its self-study for WSCUC accreditation in June 2023, the university conducted a comprehensive assessment of its institutional research practices. WMU systematically evaluates various aspects of university activities, including faculty teaching, administration, the learning climate, student worship and ministry, the university website, and the Moodle learning management system. Additionally, assessments cover seminars, workshops, and spirituality among seminary students. Insights gained from these evaluations inform future improvements and have become integral to WMU's organizational culture.

During this self-study process, WMU implemented two significant improvements:

Firstly, the institution enhanced its assessment framework by introducing program reviews, teaching evaluations, and performance assessments.

Secondly, WMU recognized the critical importance of collecting and analyzing disaggregated data, an area previously underemphasized. This focused effort provided deeper insights into the status of WMU's Latin program, which has shown considerable growth in recent years. Today, WMU has transformed from a Korean seminary into a vibrant, multicultural university.



Director Seo-  
young Kim is  
having a mee-  
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faculties

## REPORT

# Library and Student Learning Center

The World Mission University Library expanded its collection significantly, adding a wealth of new digital and physical materials to support the research and learning needs of both faculty and students. Meanwhile, the Student Learning Center has streamlined its operations to efficiently handle tutoring and workshop requests from students and faculty. Here are the key highlights of their activities from Fall 2023 to Summer 2024:

- Record E-Book Borrowing: The introduction of the BookCube e-library in March 2022 has resulted in a doubling of annual lending volumes each year.
- Workshops and Information Literacy Courses: Starting Spring 2024, regular online library workshops have been conducted every second Friday of each semester for all students. In Fall 2023, the Student Learning Center hosted a specialized information literacy workshop for nursing students. Additionally, a librarian taught the LA169 Information Literacy course to undergraduate students in Spring 2024.
- Successful Accreditation Visits: The library played a crucial role in facilitating visits, document submissions, and librarian interviews for various accreditation bodies, including ATS, WSCUC, and CCNE.
- Participation in ATLA Conference: Serving as local hosts, the library contributed significantly to the American Theological Library Association (ATLA) Conference held in Long Beach, CA from June 22 to 23, 2024. The librarian also organized cultural tours of Los Angeles' Korea Town for visiting theological librarians from other states and Europe.



The View of  
WMU Library

## Ongoing Project



# LILLY PROJECT

## The 1st Pathways for Tomorrow

### Background and Initiative

Amidst the challenges posed by COVID-19 to churches and seminaries, the Lilly Endowment Inc. launched the Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative. This initiative focuses on fostering collaboration between churches and seminaries to navigate the crisis and envision future pathways. Selected seminaries, including World Mission University (WMU), a member of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), received five-year financial support from the Lilly Endowment to execute innovative projects.

### WMU Holistic Spirituality Series

Throughout 2023, WMU laid the foundational groundwork for its project. Thirteen scholars contributed papers on "Spiritual Formation in the Digital Age," connecting it to their areas of expertise. These papers were published in two volumes titled "WMU Holistic Spirituality Series." The first volume, "What is Spirituality to Us Today?" and the second, "How to Teach Spirituality," were published as a commemorative collection for the 100th anniversary of Reverend Dong Sun Lim's birth.



In June 2022, WMU was chosen to participate in the Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative and received a \$1 million grant to implement its project, "Spiritual Formation in the Digital Age."



## Establishment of the Asian-American Spiritual Formation Center

This center was established to enhance project execution and broaden outreach. It serves as a hub for resources on Asian culture and spirituality, spirituality in the digital age, the Spiritual Transformation Inventory (STI), and various spiritual resources.

### Pastoral Small Group Meetings

In fall 2023, WMU conducted an eight-week pastoral small group meeting via Zoom, followed by a two-night, three-day in-person spiritual retreat for ten local church pastors and their spouses. This initiative fostered deeper connections and commitment to spiritual formation among participating pastors, leading to ongoing collaborative relationships.

### Future Plans for 2024

Develop a theoretical book and manual for spiritual formation training.

Conduct research to create a spiritual diagnostic tool tailored for Koreans, addressing the need for a culturally relevant spiritual scale.

### Conclusion

The Lilly Project 1 at WMU is poised to significantly impact spiritual formation training in seminaries and local churches in the digital age. We invite your interest and prayers as we continue this transformative journey.



# OHANA

www.pccwm.edu Issu Date Jul. 2024



## The 2nd Nurturing Children thru Worship and Praise

Immigrant churches and families often encounter challenges in religious education and passing down faith due to cultural differences and generational communication gaps. The second Lilly project aims to foster the faith of the next generation through family worship, shifting the focus of Christian education from the church to the home. Additionally, it seeks to transmit the faith of the first generation to subsequent generations (1.5 and 2nd generation) through intergenerational worship and activities.

### Objectives

- Establishment of a Christian education research team to develop family worship and integrated intergenerational worship models.
- Creation and management of a platform for the application and expansion of worship models.
- Publication of research papers on Christian education for children's faith development.
- Design of a worship format that promotes participation across all generations, overcoming cultural barriers.
- Development and dissemination of worship guidelines to encourage family and intergenerational worship.
- Provision of programs to strengthen family-centered Christian education within immigrant families.
- Development and dissemination of faith-based activities applicable to daily life for all generations.
- Support for the Korean American Children's Festival.
- Collaboration with the Education Departments of Korean immigrant churches.



## Progress

[Establishment of the Pacific Center for Culture and Education](#)

Formation of the Christian Education Research Team.

[Launch of an online platform for family worship](#)

[Development and dissemination of family worship and intergenerational worship formats and guidelines on the platform](#)

[Selection of partner churches](#) – East Church of Love, Good Community Church of Torrance, Samul Church, Portland Onnuri Church, Calvary Faith Church, Dallas Bethany Church, etc.

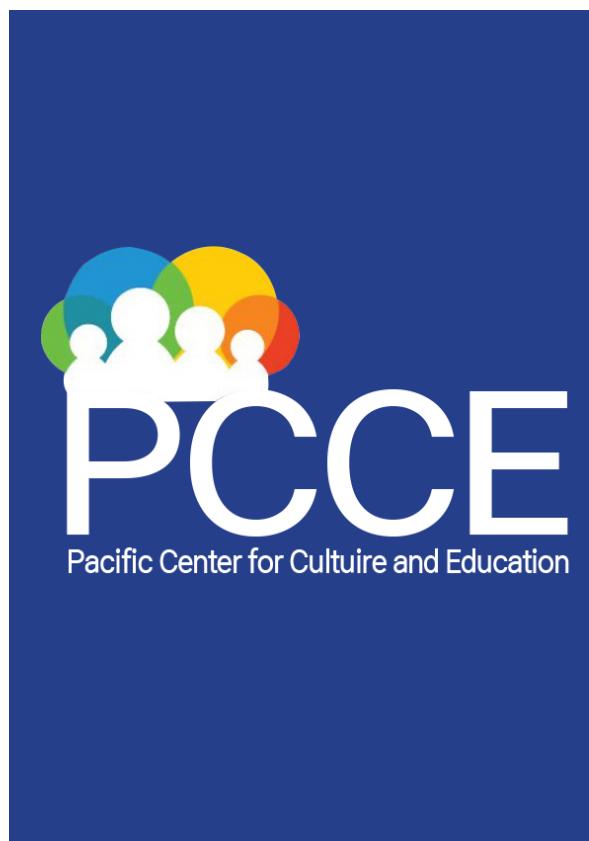
Currently, 150 families are participating in family worship through the platform.

[Publication of OHANA, a Christian education e-magazine](#)

Thesis papers on Christian education written.

Creation of a metaverse for activities such as Bible quizzes and online children's festivals.

Directed by Yoon Jung Choi



## The 3rd **Christian Parenting and Caregiving**

Central to shifting Christian education to the home is the pivotal role of parents. Effective parental involvement is crucial for meaningful faith education within the household. To empower parents as primary agents of faith education and caregiving, the project implements the following strategies:

### Strategies

- Establishment of a training center dedicated to developing and managing parent education programs, serving as an affiliated center under WMU.
- Development of parent education programs and recruitment of instructors.
- Conducting parenting workshops and organizing parent networks.
- Collaboration with various organizations in Korea and the U.S. to disseminate training programs, focusing on states with concentrated Korean American communities.
- Partnership with Korean churches and their education departments.

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### Progress

- [Establishment of an online platform for parenting education](#)
- [Introduction of online parent education classes such as Parent Coaching, Empowerment Training for Parents of Children with Disabilities, and Parenting in a Relationship](#)
- [As of July 2024, 89 parents have completed the 'Parent Coaching' class.](#)
- [Parent coaching service in partnership with StoryOn Coaching Center](#)
- Analysis of survey data from parent class participants.

## Benefits to WMU

In an era of declining religiosity, WMU aims to partner with immigrant churches and families to spiritually nurture the next generation. This project not only fulfills WMU's mission to future generations but also establishes a robust spiritual infrastructure. By providing educational resources and expertise, WMU supports immigrant churches and families in need. Additional benefits include:

- Academic departments gaining research data and resources through program support and evaluation.
- Increased interest in WMU's educational programs among parents, potentially leading to future student recruitment.
- Engagement in Christian education and mission work fostering support among donors concerned about the next generation.
- Continued influence and leadership within the Korean American community.

## Expected Outcomes

Through family and intergenerational worship, parents will assume a primary role in Christian education at home, imparting tangible and intangible faith to their children. This initiative aims to establish the home as a hub for faith application and practice, nurturing a loving and faith-centered family community. The platform's web-based worship slides and leader's guides aim to democratize family worship among Korean families, fostering a culture of home worship. Utilizing the metaverse space, the project seeks to innovate Christian education methods in the digital age. Moreover, by offering online education to time-constrained Korean American parents, the project aims to significantly impact parental education. Collaboration with the DSLIM Foundation is expected to amplify the project's impact within the Korean community.

## Conclusion

This initiative underscores WMU's commitment to Christian education and community empowerment, positioning it as a vital force in shaping the future of faith transmission.



## The 4th Compelling Preaching Initiative

World Mission University, with support from the Lilly Endowment, will launch the "Compelling Preaching Initiative" starting in July 2024. This five-year program is designed for pastors who wish to deliver more persuasive sermons. Each year, the program will travel across the Americas, focusing on different themes, and will include one conference and eight workshops annually. These will provide an in-depth exploration and presentation on the content, form, and methods of preaching, with the goal of promoting mutual growth among pastors through shared learning.

The program aims to specifically address the needs of pastors who want to more effectively drive both church growth and spiritual maturity. It seeks to break away from the one-sided relationship between preacher and audience, which has led to a decline in interest among congregations. Instead, the program will promote the development of sermons that are dynamic and interactive.

To lead this initiative, the university has appointed Professor Sung Jin Lim, a scholar with a background in homiletics theology centered on contemporary hermeneutics. His expertise is expected to contribute significantly to the program, emphasizing the need for sermons to involve not only a deep understanding of Scripture but also a keen analysis of human situations.

The program's philosophy challenges the traditional approach of beginning a sermon with a set conclusion drawn from the Scripture. This approach has often resulted in sermons becoming repetitive and detached from real life. To overcome this, the program advocates that sermons should start from the "life situation" of the audience, refining the questions of life through situational analysis and seeking wisdom from Scripture to guide the audience toward enlightenment and resolution.



Importantly, this approach does not diminish the value of Scripture; rather, it enhances the sermon's relevance to real life, thereby increasing its persuasive power. The audience is no longer just passive listeners; they are active participants in worship, engaging fully with the sermon.

Recognizing the need to redefine the role of the audience in sermons and worship, the program encourages preachers to approach sermons as a dialogue, acknowledging that the audience is composed of individuals actively living and seeking meaning in their lives.

The lectures and workshops of the Compelling Preaching Initiative, hosted by World Mission University, aim to address these issues and find ways for sermons to be more effectively persuasive today. A key strategy will be to reverse the traditional order of sermon development, moving from "situation to Scripture" instead of "Scripture to situation." This approach is intended to capture the audience's attention from the start and to ensure they move forward together with the preacher.

At the end of the five-year period, World Mission University plans to publish a preaching research white paper and share valuable resources with immigrant communities and churches.





## The 5th Thriving Congregation

Author and missiologist Ed Stetzer (2022) recently analyzed and suggested a new trend in the American church following the COVID-19 pandemic. In "A Look in the Mirror" Stetzer observed while the American church as a whole is in serious decline, not all churches are. Instead, many churches are emerging with new vitality. These churches have scaled or right-sized their clergy, infrastructure, and Sunday-centered churches to a new vision for congregations, small groups, and daily life. From Stetzer's perspective, the decline of institutional Christianity is related to the "collapse of cultural or nominal Christianity". In addition, Stetzer argued that the flow of evangelical faith

and practice was formed inside the church during this period.

In that respect, the vitality of the church is not over. Instead, the real battle has begun. Thom S. Rainer, a renowned church expert, shares similar perspectives as Stetzer, in which he anticipates trends for local churches in 2023. Rainer proposed that leaders should not minister in anticipation of shifting growth from cultural Christians or other churches. The church must begin with evangelism to make true disciples, rather than striving towards horizontal movement with members of other churches. The Church must focus more on the basics, that is "the mission of the church, not a complex church centered on programs and events." (Rainer, 2020).

World Mission University is proud to host *Thriving Congregation: Training Small Group Leaders Online*, supported by the Lilly Foundation. This year, Professor Kang-soo Yoo has served as the program director, and as of July 1st, Professor Seon Mook Shin has assumed the role of program director.

In its inaugural year, this program aimed to equip small group leaders to rejuvenate local church congregations, achieving significant milestones under Professor Seon Mook Shin's leadership. A foundational training framework was established, incorporating a 10-week online lecture series. The curriculum began with biblical and social understandings of small group leadership, followed by nine weeks focused on developing essential skills and competencies.

Looking ahead, World Mission University plans to continue this initiative through its Lifelong Development Institute (tentative name), focusing on ongoing training for pastors and small group leaders within local churches.

## Immediate Goals

The program's next phase involves hosting a conference for pastors and lay small group leaders, followed by workshops designed to implement the developed training model. The inaugural conference is scheduled for October, with subsequent annual conferences planned. Each conference will address specific topics, feature key speakers, and facilitate the gathering, organization, and reflection of outcomes.



## Workshops and Research

Workshops will allow participants from the conferences to directly apply the training model. Concurrently, ongoing research will explore theological topics pertinent to the competencies essential for lay small group leaders. Professors Kang-soo Yoo, Seon-mook Shin, and Yoon-tae Kim are collaborating on a research paper slated for presentation in the fall. Future plans include selecting relevant topics, conducting further research, presenting findings at conferences, refining training models, and expanding program offerings.

This comprehensive approach aims to cultivate a network of church leaders committed to the shared vision of revitalizing congregations through effective small group leadership, ensuring sustained impact in the years to come.



**Directed by Seon Mook Shin**





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